

BOISE IDAHO STATESMAN (ID)
18 June 1985

Effort to ban conference supported

Libertarian cites
terrorist witch hunt

By LYNN PORTER

The Idaho Statesman

A self-styled civil libertarian who wants sharp limits on the powers of the FBI and CIA praised Boiseans on Monday for efforts aimed at blocking a recent anti-terrorism conference.

Elements of the government, Frank Wilkinson said, are "setting up the machinery for a witch hunt, only in the 1980s, you don't call it communism anymore. You call it terrorism."

In April, James Davis of El Cajon, Calif., conducted the Pacific Northwest Conference on Terrorism for law enforcement personnel, but only after losing sponsorship of the Idaho Department of Law Enforcement. Area peace groups had complained that Davis grouped them with terrorists.

Sponsorship of the conference, which remained controversial, was picked up by Ada County Sheriff Vaughn Killeen and Commissioner Mike Johnson.

"We did see an effort that was being made to try to silence dissent



Frank
Wilkinson

... seeks
ban on
covert
operations

under the guise of fighting terrorism — as though anybody except a sick fanatic would be in favor of terrorism in Idaho," Wilkinson said of the conference. He spoke to about 25 people at the Boise YWCA under the sponsorship of the Ada County Citizens for Peace and Justice and the American Civil Liberties Union.

Former director of the National Committee Against Repressive Legislation, which worked to abolish the House Un-American Activities Committee, Wilkinson in 1958 received a one-year prison sentence for refusing to answer questions before the House panel, which investigated purported communism in America. Wilkinson was cited for contempt of Congress for refusing to give his address, he said.

In an interview after the speech, Wilkinson said his goal is a ban on political surveillance by the FBI and on covert operations by the CIA.

Executive orders issued by Rea-

gan from 1981 to 1983 allow the CIA to join with the FBI to infiltrate organizations within the United States and potentially disrupt their activities — even if the groups are not suspected of criminal activity, Wilkinson said.

This means that these two agencies "could place agents on the college campuses here (in Boise) infiltrate, conduct surveillance and even cause disruptions," he said.

He and his National Committee Against Repressive Legislation also are working to abolish the Senate Judiciary subcommittee on security and terrorism, which he calls a stepchild of the House Un-American Activities Committee.

He said Reagan has the worst civil liberties record of any president in Wilkinson's lifetime, but said abuses of civil liberties in recent years have come from both Republicans and Democrats.

Wilkinson is particularly sensitive to FBI surveillance efforts. He and his committee have filed a \$6 million lawsuit against the FBI, claiming that the agency has conducted a 20-year campaign to "disrupt, discredit and interfere" with lawful activities of Wilkinson and the group. He said the FBI has spent \$17 million over that time collecting documentation on his activities.

According to the ACLU, which is representing Wilkinson in the suit, the FBI has admitted to having 73,000 pages of documentation on Wilkinson and his organization.